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Governor Baker Appoints Monserrate Quiñones to Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination

Commissioner Sunila Thomas-George designated as MCAD Chair

BOSTON – Governor Charlie Baker today announced the appointment of Monserrate Quiñones to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). Commissioner Sunila Thomas-George, who has served as a Commissioner since 2007, and prior to that as an MCAD staff member, was designated as Chair of the Commission on September 12, 2017. The three-member Commission serves as the state's chief civil rights agency charged with the authority to investigate, prosecute, adjudicate, and resolve cases of discrimination.

"Monserrate Quiñones has spent much of her career as an advocate for inclusion in the workplace and for small and diverse business owners competing in the state contracting process," **said Governor Baker.** "Together with Commissioner Shelia Hubbard and under the guidance of long-time member and now Chairwoman Sunila Thomas-George, I am confident the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination will continue to have the leadership necessary to promote equality and to protect the Commonwealth's citizens from all forms of discrimination."

The MCAD is an independent agency of the Commonwealth, funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with additional support provided through federal contract payments from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The MCAD protects individuals in numerous protected categories including race, color, creed,

national origin, age, disability, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation by enforcing the Commonwealth's anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit, and education.

"I am honored to be the first Asian-American Chair in the history of the MCAD," **said Sunila Thomas George**. "After nearly 20 years at the Commission, from my start as a legal intern to the day I first became a Commissioner in 2007, I am now honored to receive this appointment. I look forward to partnering with Commissioners Sheila Hubbard and Monserrate Quinones to advance civil rights across the Commonwealth. We are committed to ensuring that the people who work, live, and learn in Massachusetts have the same opportunity to flourish that my parents had when they immigrated here from India."

The three Commissioners of MCAD are appointed by the Governor, serve terms of three years and are each delegated regional responsibilities in the Springfield, New Bedford and Boston regions. Commissioner George was reappointed to her fourth term on the MCAD by Governor Baker [in 2015](#), and succeeds Commissioner Jamie R. Williamson as Chairwoman. Commissioner Sheila Hubbard was appointed to the MCAD by Governor Baker in [February, 2017](#).

For more about the MCAD, visit: <http://www.mass.gov/mcad/>

About Monserrate Quiñones

Monserrate "Monsi" Quiñones has served as the Director of the Massachusetts Department of Correction's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity since September of 2008, promoting an equal opportunity and discriminatory-free work environment for department employees, while developing and implementing a strategic and operational diversity and inclusion model. Quiñones was appointed as a Special Assistant to Governor Paul Cellucci in July, 2000, where she chaired the Governor's Latino-American Advisory Commission and led efforts to increase diversity and inclusion for small and women- and minority-owned businesses in the state procurement process. From there she would spend seven years as the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Affirmative Market Program (now State Supplier Diversity Program) in the Operational Services Division (OSD) of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance. A resident of Sutton and licensed social worker, Quiñones obtained her Bachelor of Science in Education with a concentration in Human Services from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Master of Science in Non-Profit Management from Worcester State University.

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